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CLAIMS:

1. A document generation system, including:

- 5 (i) a generation component for generating an XML source document by associating an initial XML document with one or more logic sources, said initial XML document and said XML source document both being valid with respect to the same predetermined DTD or schema; and
- 10 (ii) an insertion component for inserting in said XML source document one or more assembly instructions for determining content of an instance document.

15 2. A document generation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said logic sources include information for use in conjunction with said one or more assembly instructions to determine content of said instance document.

3. A document generation system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said logic sources are external to said XML source document.

20 4. A document generation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said assembly instructions are not defined in said predetermined DTD or schema.

5. A method for generating an XML source document for a document assembly system, including:

- 25 (i) generating said XML source document by associating an initial XML document with one or more logic sources, said initial XML document and said XML source document both being valid with respect to the same predetermined DTD or schema; and
- 30 (ii) inserting in said XML source document one or more assembly instructions for determining content of an instance document.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said logic sources include information for use in conjunction with said one or more assembly instructions to determine content of said instance document.
- 5 7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said logic sources are external to said XML source document.
8. A method as claimed in claim 5, including inserting one or more assembly instructions defining one or more conditions in one or more of said logic sources,
10 and inserting one or more assembly instructions in said XML source document to associate said conditions with one or more portions of said XML source document.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said conditions include conditions for determining whether portions of said XML source document will be included in
15 said instance document.
10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one of said one or more portions of said XML source document includes one or more XML nodes in said XML source document, and a corresponding condition determines whether said one or
20 more XML nodes will be included in said instance document.
11. A method as claimed in claim 5, including adding, to a logic source, one or more logic elements for determining content of an instance document.
- 25 12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said one or more logic elements include interview data for defining one or more questions for a user of said document assembly system, and for constraining responses to said questions.

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13. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said step of inserting one or more assembly instructions includes inserting a assembly instruction indicating where content external to said XML source document can be included in said instance document.

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14. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined DTD or schema does not define said one or more assembly instructions.

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15. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said assembly instructions include XML processing instructions.

16. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said assembly instructions include application data that can be parsed as XML.

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17. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said associating includes inserting one or more universal resource indicators (URIs) referencing said one or more logic sources.

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18. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said logic sources are represented in extensible markup language (XML).

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said logic sources are valid XML documents.

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20. A method as claimed in claim 5, including inserting in said XML source document party assembly instructions referring to attributes of a party defined in said logic source.

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21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said party attributes include one or more of gender and number.

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22. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said step of generating includes inserting in said XML source document party mapping data for mapping one or more attributes of one or more parties defined in one or more of said logic sources to respective parties of said XML source document.

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23. A document assembly method, including:

accessing an XML source document including one or more assembly instructions and one or more logic sources associated with said XML source document; and
10 generating an instance document on the basis of said XML source document and said logic sources, wherein said XML source document is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema.

24. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said assembly instructions are not
15 defined in said predetermined DTD or schema.

25. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least part of said logic is external to said XML source document.

20 26. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein each of said logic sources includes one or more conditions, and said step of generating includes evaluating at least one of said conditions to determine whether a corresponding portion of the source document is included in said instance document.

25 27. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said one or more conditions include one or more conditions for determining whether portions of said source document are included in said instance document.

30 28. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said evaluating includes evaluating one or more of said conditions to determine whether one or more XML nodes in said XML source document are included in said instance document.

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- 5 29. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein each of said logic sources includes one or more conditions, and said step of generating includes evaluating at least one of said conditions to determine whether a corresponding portion of said XML source document is included in said instance document.
- 10 30. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein one or more logic elements in said one or more logic sources include interview data, and said step of generating includes providing one or more questions to a user and receiving one or more responses to said questions on the basis of said interview data.
31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said step of generating includes generating assembly data on the basis of said responses.
- 15 32. A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said instance document is generated on the basis of said assembly data.
- 20 33. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes accessing said logic sources on the basis of said assembly instructions.
34. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes accessing one or more other XML documents referenced by said XML source document.
- 25 35. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes including text from a logic source in said instance document.
- 30 36. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes including user response text in said instance document.

37. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said one or more logic sources include one or more phrases to be used in relation to a party, where the party has values for attributes such as gender or number which match the attributes specified for said one or more phrases.

38. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes including an item one or more times in said instance document.

39. A method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said item has a different value for each of said times.

40. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes evaluating a variable associated with textual data and including said textual data in said instance document if said variable has a first value and omitting said textual data from said instance document if said variable has a second value.

41. A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said variable is a Boolean variable.

42. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes evaluating a variable and including the value of said variable in said instance document.

43. A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said XML source document includes one or more universal resource indicators (URIs) associating said one or more logic sources with said XML source document.

44. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said assembly instructions include XML processing instructions.

45. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said assembly instructions include application data that can be parsed as XML.

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46. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said logic sources include extensible markup language (XML) logic sources.

5 47. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein each of said logic sources is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema.

48. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said one or more logic sources include one or more logic elements.

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49. A method as claimed in claim 48, including resolving one or more variables of said logic elements, and wherein said instance document is generated on the basis of the resolved variables.

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50. A method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said resolving includes accessing a database.

51. A method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said resolving includes performing one or more interviews with a user.

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52. A method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said resolving includes executing one or more functions associated with said one or more logic elements.

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53. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step of generating includes mapping one or more attributes of one or more parties used in said one or more logic sources to respective attributes used in said XML source document on the basis of mapping data of said XML source document.

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54. A system having components for executing the steps of any one of claims 5 to 53.

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55. A software having program code for executing the steps of any one of claims 5 to 53.

5 56. A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon program code for executing the steps of any one of claims 5 to 53.

10 57. A document assembly system, including a processing engine for generating an instance document from at least one XML source document and one or more logic sources associated with said at least one XML source document, wherein said at least one XML source document is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema.

15 58. A system as claimed in claim 57, wherein said one or more logic sources are external to said at least one XML source document.

59. A system as claimed in claim 58, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more assembly instructions for use in conjunction with said one or more logic sources to determine content of said instance document.

20 60. A system as claimed in claim 59, wherein said one or more assembly instructions are not defined in said predetermined DTD or schema.

25 61. A system as claimed in claim 57, wherein said instance document includes an XML instance document.

62. A system as claimed in claim 61, wherein said XML instance document is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema

30 63. A system as claimed in claim 57, wherein said system includes a rendering engine for generating from said instance document an output instance document for display in at least one output format.

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64. A system as claimed in claim 63, wherein said at least one output format includes at least one of hypertext markup language (HTML) format, portable document format (PDF), and rich text format (RTF).

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65. A system as claimed in claim 57, including an editor for editing XML source documents and logic sources on the basis of respective DTD or schema.

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66. A document assembly system, including an editor for generating an XML source document by associating an initial XML document with logic for use in generating an instance document from said XML source document, said initial XML document and said XML source document being valid with respect to the same predetermined DTD or schema.

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67. An XML source document for a document assembly system, said XML source document including one or more assembly instructions for determining content of an instance document, said XML source document being valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema.

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68. An XML source document as claimed in claim 67, wherein said one or more assembly instructions are included in said XML source document.

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69. An XML source document as claimed in claim 68, including one or more references to respective logic sources external to said XML source document, said logic sources including information for use in conjunction with said one or more assembly instructions to determine content of said instance document.

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70. An XML source document as claimed in claim 67, wherein said assembly instructions include references to one or more conditions for determining content of said instance document.

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71. An XML source document as claimed in claim 70, wherein said one or more conditions include one or more conditions for determining whether one or more XML nodes will be included in said instance document.

5 72. An XML source document as claimed in claim 70, wherein a condition depends upon one or more other conditions.

73. An XML source document as claimed in claim 72, wherein said conditions are related by Boolean operators.

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74. An XML source document as claimed in claim 68, wherein said assembly instructions include XML processing instructions.

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75. An XML source document as claimed in claim 68, wherein said one or more assembly instructions include application data that can be parsed as XML.

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76. An XML source document as claimed in claim 67, including mapping data for mapping one or more attributes of one or more parties used in said one or more logic sources to respective attributes used in said XML source document.

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77. A logic source for a document assembly system, said logic source including one or more logic elements for determining content of an instance document from an XML source document associated with said logic source, said XML source document being valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema.

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78. A logic source as claimed in claim 77, wherein said logic elements include one or more condition elements for determining content of said instance document.

79. A logic source as claimed in claim 77, wherein said logic source includes interview data for displaying questions to a user and for determining responses to said questions.

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80. A logic source as claimed in claim 77, wherein said logic source includes one or more references to respective other logic sources external to said logic source, said other logic sources including information for use in determining content of said instance document.

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81. A logic source as claimed in claim 80, wherein a reference to a logic source or an XML source document includes party mapping information for mapping a first party used in the referenced source document or logic source to a second party used in the referring source document or logic source.

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82. A logic source as claimed in claim 77, wherein said XML source document includes a assembly instruction referencing a second XML document for use in determining content of said instance document.

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83. A logic source as claimed in claim 77, wherein said XML source document includes a assembly instruction for including in said instance document text from a logic source.

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84. A logic source as claimed in claim 79, wherein said XML source document includes a assembly instruction for including in said instance document response text provided by said user.

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85. A logic source as claimed in claim 77, wherein said XML source document includes a assembly instruction for including an element one or more times in said instance document.

86. A logic source as claimed in claim 85, wherein said element has different content for each of said times.

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87. A logic source as claimed in claim 77, wherein said logic source includes one or more extensible markup language (XML) elements.

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